

I'm pleased that we are joined by our former colleague in the House, and now a Senator, Senator HARKIN, who was such a champion in passing the Americans with Disabilities Act; our former colleague, Tony Coelho, also a leader in that regard; our colleagues who have worked so hard on that subject, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KENNEDY; and the champion in our House on the Americans with Disabilities Act, STENY HOYER, our distinguished majority leader.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER has made this part of his legacy in the Congress. Not so fast with the legacy, I know. More to come. But we thank you for being the champion on civil rights that you are.

And I see now that we have been joined by our distinguished Republican leader of the House, Mr. BOEHNER.

This is bipartisan effort. It has been all along. It is a cause for celebration. It is a source of liberation. And it's important to note that there's a reason Mr. LANGEVIN is first. He is first because of his courage. He is first because of his inspiration, and he is first because when I became Speaker, he said to me, Now that you are presiding, I want to preside too.

So on that day, when we made history of having the first woman Speaker of the House, it became clear that we had to make history today in having JIM LANGEVIN preside on this historic occasion, which is a source of pride to all of us but also a source of challenge as to how we go forward addressing the new technologies so that we can continue to remove barriers to participation to all Americans. It's better for them and it's better for our country.

Now we can go forward clearly saying that we respect people for what they can do, not judge them or limit them for what they cannot, and that we can more fully honor the Pledge of Allegiance that Mr. KENNEDY led us in just earlier, one Nation under God, with liberty—and this is about liberation—with liberty and justice for all.

Congratulations, Mr. LANGEVIN.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Speaker and the majority leader in recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

First I want to applaud you, Mr. Speaker, for making history today as the first American with disabilities to preside over this distinguished body. It's truly an inspiring sight and a reminder that the disabled are, of course, among the most active and functional members of our society. And it's a testament to the historic measure that we're celebrating today.

I also want to congratulate my colleague, Mr. HOYER, the majority lead-

er, who I know played a key role in making this legislation a reality, along with other colleagues from the other body and retired, along with Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

But really I want to thank all of you for ensuring that we come together, across the aisle when necessary, to make certain that this act fulfills its original mission.

Before the Americans with Disabilities Act, nowhere in the world was there a comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities.

In the medical community, people with disabilities are called "handi-capable" because they strive and succeed in the face of great personal obstacles.

There was a time, however, when courage alone was not enough to get them into their hometown theaters to see a movie or into office buildings to apply for a job, much less to provide for their families. Those wrongs were corrected on July 26, 1990, when President George Herbert Walker Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law on the South Lawn of the White House.

On that day President Bush noted that it was roughly a year after the Berlin Wall came down and said that this legislation "takes a sledge hammer to another wall, one which has for too many generations separated Americans with disabilities from the freedom they could glimpse, but not grasp."

For too long our Nation has kept Americans with disabilities dependent, when they all yearned for independence. And the Americans with Disabilities Act has given them the tools to do just that, to quench their thirst for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It has changed the lives of millions, and will do so for many, many generations to come.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The rules require that the Chair remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House, and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

CONGRATULATING THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

(Mr. KENNEDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, one of the peculiarities of parliamentary procedure is that all discussion on the floor of the House is directed to the person who occupies the Speaker's podium. But it is on rare occasion when the significance of the individual presiding over House proceedings outweighs the proceedings themselves. This is such a time.

It is with great pride that I stand here on this historic occasion as my

close friend JIM LANGEVIN presides over the House from the Speaker's rostrum. JIM is an individual who embodies the best of the American people. He is the personification of the word "courage."

I have known JIM since our time together in the Rhode Island State Legislature, and I have been fortunate to witness his overcoming obstacle after obstacle throughout his life.

As a teenager, JIM made a commitment to a life of public service, seeking a career as a police officer. When a cruel twist of fate denied him the path that he envisioned, the easy road would have been to give up. But JIM would not be dissuaded. Instead, he drew on a spirit of perseverance that any lesser of us would have struggled to find.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. KENNEDY. May I ask unanimous consent to have the requisite 5 minutes that I was initially given?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may complete his thought.

Mr. KENNEDY. I don't know who is controlling the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair expects further debate during suspension of the rules. The gentleman may complete his thought on his 1-minute.

Mr. KENNEDY. How much time do I have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 15 seconds to complete his thought.

Mr. KENNEDY. Well, there he is. Who's in charge now? All right, JIMMY. Well, I'll get my chance later. And you better be ready, because there will be no holding back then. God bless you. I am so proud to be your colleague.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it's particularly fitting that I would be with you today in that my late father-in-law, State Representative Julian Dusenbury, who was a hero of the Battle of Okinawa, was shot by a sniper, but he continued his service from a wheelchair in the Statehouse of South Carolina. So I have always appreciated your courage, and I want to join with Congressman KENNEDY to recognize your courage and your courage to serve. Thank you, and God bless you.

The Friday front page headlines of The Island Packet of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, highlight the legitimate concerns of the American people. "Are we in for a tax hike?" and is the U.S. facing a threat of a flat economy? Since the stimulus bill became law, 2.4 million Americans have lost their jobs. The promise of unemployment not to exceed 8 percent was broken, as unemployment soared to 8 percent.

The failed borrow, spend, and tax policies of this administration cry out